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Send your letters to: "Elf-Addressed" c/o Warp Graphics, 5 Reno Road, Poughkeepsie NY 12603

Well, the Vegematic went pretty hungry, I'm happy to say, though it didn't quite starve. Here's what you had to say about Hidden Years #6...

Number 6 - verrrry interesting! I look forward no, eagerly anticipate - no - argh! Why is this a bimonthly series? Due to the peculiarities of college life and local comic dealers, I'll have to wait until September to get part 2. Never mind. I'll wait... patiently?

"How Shall I Keep From Singing," Part the First, was very good. I couldn't really tell until I read the "Matter of Opinion" that it wasn't Wendy drawing it.

Just a few comments and questions. Is it just me, or does Haken look an awful lot like Winnowill's view of Rayek as a High One? Even her vision of him as a Conehead has the same clothes. The easiest explanation I can think of is that Winnowill is Haken's daughter, possibly granddaughter. They even act the same - a desperate desire to get off the World of Two Moons. Do these things get passed down in the genes?

Not to mention the next issue's cover... Timmain versus Haken - just like the Wolfriders against Winnowill. Hmm - animosity through genes?

Love how the High Ones resemble the current

crop of Wolfriders.

I hope I'll get some of the questions answered in Part Two. Can't wait, can't wait! Oh, and if you're going to let others do ELFQUEST proper, make them all as good as this crew!

Dawn Evenhouse 433 Judge Avenue Waukegan, IL 60085

I just finished reading HIDDEN YEARS #6 and I want to congratulate Sarah, Paul, Charles and Paty for doing such a fantastic job! It must have been hard on them to hear so many prejudices after Wendy and Richard announced that others would draw ELFQUEST.

But they really proved everyone, who said ELFQUEST wouldn't be ELFQUEST without Wendy's

drawings, wrong. Very wrong indeed.

ELFQUEST may have changed a little, but it is still ELFQUEST and don't let anybody tell you it's not. I especially liked page 15, on which Timmain expresses her grief over Adya's death by howling with a wolf at the moon. That was very emotional and beautiful as well.

So in the future, I hope you will keep up the good work (Wendy and Richard too, of course) and will give us many more stories of ELFQUESTI

Judith van der Klei Strausslaan 11 9722 KP Groningen the Netherlands

Just wait 'till you see what we've got planned for the rest of 1993! More Hidden Years, more New Blood, a new Blood of Ten Chiefs series starting in July, and WaveDancers powering up in December... Yow! Are we having fun yet!?

I am truly disappointed by HIDDEN YEARS #6. I have collected ELFQUEST in graphic novel form for eight years now, and I have never before had cause to complain. Only with the advent of HIDDEN YEARS have I started collecting in regular issue format, mainly because I fell in love with the incredible inks and colors which so majestically enlivened Wendy's already incredible artwork. In issue #6, not only is that art missing, so is the exquisitely subtle shading that typified the previous HIDDEN YEARS issues and added to

the wonder I felt every time a new issue arrived at the comic store. The new artists may be talented (in fact, I found the quality of their work to be superior to that of most others) but the comic loses something without that "Pini touch."

As far as the story goes, I admit I'm looking forward to the next issue for that reason alone, although much of #6 was devoted to facts that most ELFQUEST fans already knew, for the most part.

For years, we readers have patiently awaited each irregularly-printed issue and have not been disappointed by the quality therein. If #6 is representative of the price we have to pay for regular publication, give me back season-long waits. If publication will still be irregular, well, we'll see.

Tom Maddox 1919 Evergreen Park Dr. S.W. Olympia, WA 98502

Nothing for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Vegematics to complain about here! But it really frosts my behind to hear about "irregular publication" even now. Starting particularly with the Hidden Years series, a new issue has come out every two months like clockwork, within a week of the middle of the month of publication. If there are irregularities, they're in the pipeline that gets our comics from the distributors to your comics shops, or in the ordering and stocking practices of the shops themselves. We're shipping the books on time.

It's funny how, in your life, you can be cruising along on smooth seas and then one winter you realize that time hasn't just passed, it has passed away, gone, forever, and there isn't anything to be done about it. There are so many things you'll never be able to do again, or be again, or look at in the same way. The moon doesn't seem to glow any more, stars don't seem as bright, sometimes the light hurts your eyes, and the clock ticks too damn loud. Mortality becomes a reality, flowers become more beautiful, pain and sadness become sharper.

in the past I've never counted years as a measure of life. It's not only the mileage, it's also where you go. You and Wendy have gone quite a bit in the lifetime of ELFQUEST. For that you can be proud, as we are proud of you. Fifteen years is a long time. It's longer than your marriage (Actually, no - that's over 20 years, but who's counting, right? - RP), it's the length of my beloved nephew's life, It's half of my life. It's also time for you to delegate. It's not something that everyone is going to like. (Whoever does accept change easily and quickly?) I'm surprised that you two haven't done so already.

All change doesn't have to be bad; it will be different. (And it is. There is a decidedly more "comic book" look to this style rather than the soft style of Wendy's.) The important thing here is, that it is no different. Those of us that count have lived through changes before (look at the uproar the Great Bird of the Galaxy caused when he birthed his second child, Star Trek: The Next Generation - the same, yet so many changes!) and we will again.

Life is about changes, good or bad, happy or painful. Without them we would be as alike, as boring, as brown paper bags. You two were paramount in teaching us that. Diversity is the fruit of life; don't just stick to apples. Always sing!

Kelly Dwyer 2031 S. Ogden St. Denver, CO 80210 I don't know if this was done on purpose, but I like how the colors of the High Ones as themselves are pale and faded like a memory, so distant as to be almost lost. Then on the World of Two Moons the color erupts, like a harsh reality. I think it pulled me even deeper into the story. The end, "To Be Continued," was rather like running full tilt into a brick wall. I'm practically holding my breath for issue #7.

I like it that you have pulled away a little from strictly Cutter and his family, giving fresh insight to the WoTM's many possibilities. To all the people who work on ELFQUEST, keep up the incredibly good work. I look forward to many more years of EQ. Shade and

sweet water!

Laina Christner 4353 Pampas Road Woodland Hills, CA 91364

About HIDDEN YEARS #6: All right, you party poopers, I'll admit it. "It ain't Wendy."

So what?

Wendy hasn't "abandoned" ELFQUEST, she's still there, only now she's editing instead of writing and drawing, she's still got creative control! If she doesn't like it, it doesn't happen! And face it, people, the new team is good! Maybe it doesn't look quite like Wendy's work any more (though it comes damn close), but I think it's work that Wendy would be proud to do. It's not worse, it's just a little different. And I like it! I hope that Wendy decided to keep doing some work herself, maybe even a new comic, but I won't let my love for her work keep me from appreciating someone else's. Just one word of warning to the new team - if you don't manage to keep Skywise as sexy as Wendy made him, I'm going to be very pissed off at you! Grm! But honestly, I think you're doing great - keep it up!

On to the comic. Do you have an unwritten law or something that says that powerful elves with long blue-black hair have to be the bad guys? Or is it that powerful bad guys have to have long blue-black hair? Winnowill, Rayek, and now Haken - this is becoming a habit. "Once is chance, twice is coincidence. Three

times is conspiracy!"

Speaking of Winnowill and Rayek, they both look a lot like Haken. Hmmm... I can think of a few interesting possibilities here. If Haken gets driven off, or runs away, maybe he meets up with a different group of High Ones and fathers Winnowill? Am I close? Naah - his skin's too dark for that, unless Winnowill decided to bleach herself. Ooo! Ooo! Even better idea - Haken is Rayek's ancestor! Hey, for all I know, he could be related to them both!

Waitaminnit here... Haken's outfit is verrry

familiar...

Oh, you sneaky beggars! Back in SIEGE AT BLUE MOUNTAIN #7, when Winnowill was showing Rayek what he could be like as a High One, THAT'S HAKEN!!!! Same outfit and everything! You did that on purpose! So unless you just decided to see how many people would notice and freak out, Winnowill must have seen Haken when she was young. And that means he must have joined up with the group who later became the Gliders, or at least passed through. And that means that he could be Winnowill's father. And THAT would explain why she's so power-hungry, with him as an example!

This is excellent! Please, please, publeeeze (I'm begging here, OK?) tell me if I'm right. Is Haken somehow related to Winnowill and/or Rayek or are Sarah & Co. Just trying to play mind games with us

poor unenlightened readers?

Even assuming you answer me, how am I supposed to wait two months to find out??

Melanie Harris 8 Hayter Place Page ACT 2614, Australia

One day at a time, gentle reader, one day at a time. (And now I must exit quickly, stage left, before the angry mob arrives!) With respect to your questions, all I will say at this point is that "there are always possibilities." There could be relations among the

named characters, and it's just as likely that the EQ creative crew is playing with your head. After all, it's not like we've never done that before, now, hmm? And have no fear at all, there are bunches of projects that we have in mind, for the near and far future, that involve both Wendy and me in our "old" roles, in addition to whatever else we're cooking. It's going to be an amazing next 15 years! (Heck, next 15 months!)

Not to sound like a fetishist, but I love the feet on page 1 of HIDDEN YEARS #6. Tell Abrams and Barnett they get this year's Emily Devenport Fine Footsie Award. It's the nuances that count.

Emily Devenport 1214 E. Yucca Phoenix, AZ 85020

Where would we be without the considered and scholarly reactions to our work...

Sputter, sputter, growl, growl...

A few words to the people who have caught the "It's not Wendy" virus:

"You are so set in your ways that you can't tell when you're wrong!" - Moonshade.

A peeved fan in Maine no address on letter

You asked me what I thought of HIDDEN YEARS #6. Well, I won't lie. The colors were not as "soft," so to say, as in the previous "Starfall, Starrise." Neither were the inks; everything was more defined. Comparing the artwork of Timmain and Adya from the earlier ELFQUEST, there is a slight difference in appearance. I could tell that it was done by someone other than Wendy, almost borderline with New Blood. By the way, I noticed Paul Abrams and Charles Barnett are doing both.

But I condemn nothing. I put all prejudice aside and love Eleguest for what it is, for the emotions it evokes, for the reality that peeks through the fantasy, for its entire being. I really enjoyed this issue as I have the others, and I give the new team my

blessings, too.

I did notice that Haken looks identical to how Rayek pictures himself being a High One; they seem alike in more ways than one. Aerth reminds me of Leetah. The beautiful blonde in green reminds me of Joyleaf. On page 18, panel 4, the red-headed elf reminds me of Rediance. Of course the beautiful hair in the sparkling starry gown (Sefra?) must be an ancestor to Skywise. There is something that troubles me about her, though. On page 5, top panel of Elfquest Book 1 "Fire and Flight" the elf on the right wears a similar headpiece that Sefra does, but looks like a male. What happened? I could do with more names that match faces to learn who's who. I now understand what Rayek meant by "a love betrayed." And I understand Timmain's selflessness when she tried to remember. The Wolfriders should be proud.

Amira Safi Route 6 Box 78 Paris, TX 75462

Consider that the figure to the right in the panel you mention is indeed Sefra, although a much older - or perhaps aged is a better term - one. The scene of the two High Ones looking frightened doesn't necessarily happen right after they are expelled from the Palace. It could be that they're still around, years later, still horrified by some example of human cruelty.

You're right! It's ain't Wendy, but it ain't bad! I expect that as the new team's leathers get well-worn, there will be some wonderful things happening.

Cristy Strong 16840 U.S. 19 N. #244 Clearwater, FL 34624

You bet! Thanks to all who wrote - and there were many! Keep those letters coming in and we'll keep reading every one of them. - RP

## A Matter of Opinion

Those of you who've been with us a while know that we've had a special place in our hearts for Wolf Park since 1982, when we became the "adoptive parents" of a yearling wolf named Betsy. I had the following news last night (though the events would have taken place in late February) from GEnie, an electronic information network. It was reported by Brian Bailey, who is a volunteer at Wolf Park, in Battle Ground, Indiana.

"...(W)e lost another friend. Betsy, an 11 year old alpha female of our mini-pack, was killed in a dominance fight by her two daughters. Although most wolf dominance fights are highly ritualized, without injury, fights for the alpha position, especially in females, can be deadly. We found Betsy dead when we went in to clean the enclosure last Saturday. Betsy had been seen suppressing and pinning her daughters without problem hours earlier. Although we'll never know for sure, I have a feeling she probably had a stroke or heart attack during a social interaction and the girls took advantage of her, recognizing her disability. Or it's possible they just suddenly realized Betsy was vulnerable and decided to try to dominate her. Whatever, Betsy was not the type to submit after so many years as alpha female. I like to think she went out happier that way, alpha to the end, than she would have as an outcast, separated from her pack."



Many of the Wolfriders have experienced such a loss. And those who have not know that one day they, too, must face the death of their first wolf friend.

Forgetting all else, the tribe unites in a long mournful howl.

It is a reaffirmation of who they are...

But more, it is a tribute to a valiant old friend who once led the pack.

The howl is for...Betsy.

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